

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated January 21, 2009.

Claims 1-9 are pending in the Application. All claims were rejected in the Office Action. Applicants amend Claim 1 and respectfully request a reconsideration of the rejections.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tomohide et al., (JP07-295720). Claims 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomohide in view of Bogward (US 2004/0049743).

Claims 1 and 7 recite a display device having a surface with a display and a surface opposite the display surface. This opposite surface includes a plurality of operation keys and a plurality of finger position detecting mechanisms associated with the operation keys. As recited in Claim 1, the operation keys themselves detect when the keys are fully depressed and the finger position detecting mechanisms detect that a finger of an operator is placed on one of the operation keys even if none of the keys is fully depressed.

Tomohide et al. discloses that both a touch sensor and a keyboard are provided on a mobile information terminal. Tomohide et al. discloses in paragraph [0019], “the touch sensor 8 is arranged so that the surface of the display 1 may be covered, and it detects the pointing operation to the surface of the display 1 with a user’s finger and input pen.”

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the touch sensor that is disclosed in Tomohide et al. is not a finger position detecting mechanism which is associated with the operation keys and which detects that a finger of an operator is placed on one of the operation keys even when none of the keys is fully depressed, as claimed in independent Claim 1.

Bogward does not remedy the above deficiency of the Tomohide reference. Therefore Claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art.

With respect to independent Claim 7, the Examiner indicated in the Office Action that Bogward teaches a gravity sensor for detecting whether gravity is applied from a front surface side of the display device to a rear surface side, or whether gravity is applied in the opposite direction. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Bogward discloses a semi-circular gravity sensor and a rectangular gravity sensor in Figs. 81, 82, 83A-83C and 84A-84E. The semi-circular gravity sensor of Bogward detects an angle of inclination of a display device in a situation in which gravity is applied from a front surface side of the display device to the rear surface side of the display device. However, the same sensor cannot detect an angle of inclination of the display device in a situation when gravity is applied from the rear surface side to the front surface side because of the structure of the semi-circular sensor. Further, the semi-circular gravity sensor cannot detect that the gravity is applied from the rear surface side to the front surface side.

The rectangular gravity sensor of Bogward detects the direction of the display device in a situation when gravity is applied from the front surface side to the rear surface side. However, the same sensor cannot detect the direction of the display device in a situation when gravity is applied from the rear surface side to the front surface side. Therefore, the limitation of Claim 7 reciting the gravity sensor which detects whether gravity is applied in a rear surface side to front surface side direction, is not disclosed in Bogward. Therefore, Claim 7 is allowable over the cited prior art.

Since each of Claims 2-5 and 8-9 is directly or indirectly dependent upon independent Claims 1 or 7, each of Claims 2-5 and 8-9 is allowable at least for the same reasons as Claims 1 and 7 and further on their own merits. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of Claims 1-9 is respectfully requested. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims as amended and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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